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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): PI-COMETRIX, INC. [US/US]; 2925 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): KO, Cheng, C. [US/US]; 713 Skynob Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (US). LEVINE, Barry [US/US]; 22 Bear Brook Lane, Livingston, NJ 07039 (US).

(74) Agents: KENNEDY, Ryan, B. et al.; Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, P.O. Box 10087, Chicago, IL 60610 (US).

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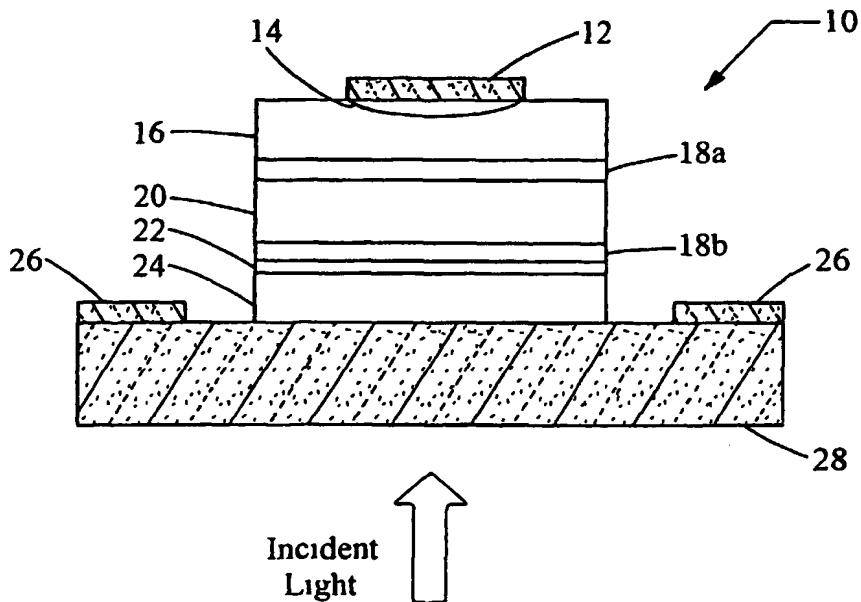
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(54) Title: PLANAR AVALANCHE PHOTODIODE



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(57) Abstract: The present invention includes a planar avalanche photodiode having a first n-type semiconductor layer defining a planar contact area, and a second n-type semiconductor layer having a p-type diffusion region. Further features of the structure include an n-type semiconductor multiplication layer, an n-type semiconductor absorption layer, and a p-type contact layer. Further embodiments include a planar avalanche photodiode having a first n-type semiconductor layer defining a planar contact area, an n-type semiconductor multiplication layer, an n-type semiconductor absorption layer and a p-type semiconductor layer electrically coupled to a p-type contact layer.